

CLAIMS

1. A joist holder (100) including a preformed sleeve of water-impermeable material (102) for receiving one end of a joist, the sleeve being mountable on a wall (200).
- 5 2. A holder (100) according to Claim 1, wherein one end of the sleeve (102) is closed by a base portion (104) so that the holder forms a box with one open end.
3. A holder (100) according to Claim 1 or 2, including a flange (108) that extends transversely from one or more edges of the open end of the sleeve  
10 (102).
4. A holder (100) according to Claim 3, where, in use, the flange (108) abuts the surface of the wall (200) into which the joist is inserted.
5. A holder (100) according to Claim 3 or 4, wherein the flange (108) includes one or more apertures (100) for screws or the like.
- 15 6. A holder (100) according to any one of Claims 3 to 5, wherein the width of the flange (108) is around 25 to 75 millimetres.
7. A holder (100) according to any one of the preceding Claims, wherein an outer surface of the sleeve (102) includes protrusions or ridges in order to improve adhesion to cement or the like.
- 20 8. A holder (400) according to Claim 7, wherein the protrusions comprise a plurality of diagonal lines (408) extending across the sleeve (102) surface.
9. A holder (100) according to any one of the preceding Claims, wherein the holder is dimensioned to substantially correspond to dimensions of standard joists.

10. A holder (100) according to Claim 9, wherein the sleeve is dimensioned to securely fit around the end of a 102 x 47 millimetres; 127 millimetres x 47 millimetres; 152 x 47 millimetres; 203 x 47 millimetres or 228 millimetres x 47 millimetres rectangular joist.
- 5 11. A holder (100) according to any one of the preceding Claims, wherein the joist holder is formed of metal or plastic material.
12. A holder (100) according to any one of the preceding Claims, wherein the surfaces of the holder are coated with a material such as rubber to provide increased friction.
- 10 13. A holder (100) according to any one of the preceding Claims, wherein the depth of the sleeve corresponds to the depth of a standard building block or brick.
14. A holder (100) according to any one of the preceding Claims, including an extension (215) of an end wall of the sleeve (102) to assist with bearing the load
- 15 of a joist in use.
15. A holder (100) according to Claim 14, wherein the extension (215) includes one or more apertures (217) to allow screws or the like to fix the underside of a joist to the extension in use.
16. A holder (100) according to any one of the preceding Claims, wherein the
- 20 sleeve (102) is at least partially formed of transparent or semi-transparent material.
17. A holder (100) according to Claim 16, wherein at least one end wall of the sleeve (102) includes a panel formed of transparent or semi-transparent material.

18. A holder (100) according to any one of the preceding Claims, wherein the holder is formed of, or coated with, fire and/or smoke and/or fume resistant material.

5 19. A holder (400) according to any one of the preceding Claims, wherein at least one sidewall of the sleeve (402) includes an aperture (406), in use, the aperture being used to allow a fixing device, such as a nail, to be inserted through the sleeve to a joist fitted in the holder.

20. A holder (400) according to Claim 19, wherein the aperture is located about midway across the width of the sleeve sidewall(s).

10 21. A holder (400) according to Claim 19 or 20, wherein opposing said sidewalls of the sleeve (402) each include a said aperture, one of the apertures (406) being offset horizontally and/or vertically from the other aperture.

22. A kit for mounting a joist in a wall (200) including a holder (100) according to any one of the preceding Claims, and a substantially L-shaped bracket (304),  
15 in use, one portion (306) of the bracket being fixed to the wall and another portion (308) of the bracket being fixed to a side surface of a joist inserted into the holder.

23. A method of mounting a joist in a wall (200) including steps of:  
inserting an end of a joist into a preformed sleeve of water-impermeable  
20 material (102), and

mounting the sleeve onto the wall.

24. A method according to Claim 23, wherein the inserting step takes place before the mounting step.

25. A method according to Claim 24, wherein a step of inserting a fixing

device, such as a nail, through an aperture in the sleeve and into the joist is performed before mounting the sleeve onto the wall.

26. A method according to Claim 23, wherein the mounting step takes place before the inserting step.

5 27. A method according to Claim 23, further including a step of placing wall-building materials around and/or on top of the mounted sleeve (102).

28. A method according to any one of Claims 23 to 26, including a step of further securing the sleeve to the wall, e.g. by inserting screws through a flange extending around one end of the sleeve to fix the sleeve to the wall.

10 29. A method according to any one of Claims 23 to 28, further including steps of fixing one portion (306) of a substantially L-shaped bracket (304) to the wall and fixing another portion (308) of the bracket to a side surface of the joist inserted into the holder.

30. A method of mounting a joist including steps of:

15 positioning a joist end into a preformed sleeve (102) of water-impermeable material, and

locating the sleeve in a course (201 - 207) of building blocks or the like,

wherein the steps of positioning and locating can be performed in either order.

20 31. A sleeve (102) for a joist comprising a water impermeable preformed wall for at least partially encircling an end of the joist for preventing water penetration to the joist end, wherein the sleeve is dimensioned to have a depth approximately equal to a standard building block, the sleeve further including an anchor portion (108) for anchoring to the face of a block work wall.

32. A building structure including joists mounted by means of a joist holder (100) according to any one of Claims 1 to 22.
33. A building structure including joists mounted according to the method of any one of Claims 23 to 30.
- 5 34. An assembly including a joist and a joist holder according to any one of Claims 1 to 22.
35. A joist holder substantially as described herein above and/or with reference to the accompanying drawings.